

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PRESIDENT BARACK  
OBAMA ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the nation's greatest presidents, Barack Obama, who turns 60 years old. It is fitting and proper that we take a moment to recount and appreciate the extraordinary accomplishments of President Barack Obama, the 44th president and one of the singular figures in American history. Madam Speaker, I remember that cold morning of January 20, 2009, one of the coldest days on record in Washington, D.C. But it was nothing compared to the chill wind blowing through the American economy and body politics.

The nation was facing economic challenges unseen since the Great Depression: Americans were losing their jobs at a frightening rate of 800,000 per month; the national unemployment rate had risen to 7.8 percent and would continue to climb until reaching its peak of 10.0 percent in October 2009. For African Americans, the numbers were much grimmer, a jobless rate of 13.5 percent in January 2009 which would grow to 16.5 percent by the end of the year. And on top of this, tens of thousands of American families each month were losing their health insurance and their homes to foreclosure.

The United States was still bogged down in the quagmire that was the Iraq War and young people by the thousands were being forced to defer or drop out of college because of lack of financial aid. And the average price of gas exceeded \$4 per gallon. It was against this backdrop that I watched from the inaugural platform as Barack Obama, surrounded by his radiant and beautiful wife, Michelle, and their two adorable daughters, rose to take the oath of office. After being sworn in as the nation's 44th President of the United States, President Obama reassured an anxious but hopeful nation, saying:

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met."

Watching Barack Obama address the nation that day, spectators in attendance and viewers across the country and around the world understood they were witnessing a historic president, the first African American ever to hold the nation's highest office.

But more than being a historic president, Barack Obama's actions and leadership over the ensuing eight years would demonstrate his would be a consequential presidency that changed America for the better. His first and most pressing task was to rescue an economy on the brink of collapse. Working with the Democratic-controlled Congress, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed,

which created 3.7 million jobs and saved the jobs of millions of teachers, firefighters, police officers, and social service providers. The Recovery Act also cut taxes for working families, extended unemployment insurance, and expanded the Earned Income and Child tax credits, which disproportionately benefit African American families. The verdict is in on the economic plan put in place by President Obama and the Democratic Congress and it is undeniable.

The Recovery Act ended the Great Recession, transformed the economy from one hemorrhaging jobs to one that created over 16 million new jobs over a record 71 consecutive months. The national unemployment rate dipped under 5 percent for the first time since President Clinton left office, the deficit was cut by 71 percent, and the Dow Jones stock market index set 118 record closing highs and stood at 19,732 on January 20, 2017, a three-fold over its nadir of 6,547 at the depths of the Great Recession. And, as an added benefit, the average price of gasoline fell from more than \$4.11 per gallon to \$1.80, the lowest price since before the tragedy of September 11.

The Obama years also effected policy changes in the areas of criminal justice reform, health and education, national security, and foreign affairs. A partial listing of these achievements is substantial, impressive, and varied. President Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act in August 2010, which reduces the disparity in the amounts of powder cocaine and crack cocaine required for the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences and eliminates the mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of crack cocaine. In July 2015, President Obama became the first president ever to tour a federal prison when he visited the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution outside of Oklahoma City. President Obama launched the Smart on Crime initiative through which the Department of Justice modified its charging policies certain federal low-level drug-related offenses, improved diversion and re-entry policies, and strengthened protections for the most vulnerable.

President Obama established Smart on Juvenile Justice grant program to expand the use of effective community-based alternatives to youth detention and launched the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program for incarcerated individuals to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue the postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and turn their lives around.

President Obama directed the Office of Personnel Management to act where it can to "ban the box" by modifying its rules to delay inquiries into criminal history until later in the hiring process and called on Congress to enact legislation "banning the box" on job applications in the private sector. President Obama increased the use of body-worn cameras through \$20 million in grants to state and local law enforcement. President Obama issued an Executive Order to increase the ca-

capacity of VA mental-health programs by hiring 1,600 more mental-health professionals and expanding the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line. President Obama provided nearly \$60 billion in benefit payments under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to over 1.5 million individuals and relaxed the evidence requirements for veterans seeking disability pay for post-traumatic stress disorder with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

President Obama acted to reduce gun violence by issuing executive orders requiring background checks for people trying to buy some of the most dangerous weapons and other items through a trust or corporation and an overhaul of the background check system to make it more efficient and effective. President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act passed by the Democratic Congress which has provided access to quality, affordable health insurance to nearly 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

President Obama launched the "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. In October 2009, Congress passed, and President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, historic legislation extending coverage of federal hate-crime law to include attacks based on the victim's race, religion, nationality, or actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

President Obama established the new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy for young undocumented people who came to the U.S. as children in an effort to better focus enforcement resources. President Obama expanded opportunity for America's children by strengthening Head Start. President Obama made college more affordable by increasing Pell grants, keeping interest rates on student loans low, and helping students manageably repay their loans. President Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, which made historic investments: in improved child nutrition and health for the 31 million children who rely on school meals and updated science-based school meal standards to increase fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy, while reducing fats and sodium.

In December 2010, the Congress passed, and President Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law, allowing gay men and women to serve openly and with integrity in the U.S. military. President Obama also made history by appointing two women to the U.S. Supreme Court, including the first Hispanic American to serve on the Court. President Obama appointed the first African American man and woman to serve as Attorney General and the first woman to Chair the Federal Reserve Board. In the area of foreign affairs and national security, President Obama ended the Iraq War, assembled and led an international coalition to impose sanctions so crippling on Iran that it was forced to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the negotiating table that yielded the Iran Nuclear Agreement that prevents Iran from ever attaining a nuclear weapon. And of course, as the world knows, because of President Obama's leadership, General Motors is alive, and Osama Bin Laden is dead.

President Barack Obama represented our country with grace, integrity, honor, and distinction. He provided consolation, hope, and healing in the face of unspeakable tragedies such as the massacre of innocent children at Sandy Hook, worshippers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, spectators at the Boston Marathon, and mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona. He expressed and symbolized our joy and pride in the progress made over the last half century—and the distance we still have to travel—when he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and addressed the multitude from the spot on the steps where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his dream for America's future.

It is clear beyond doubt that President Obama kept the promise he made to the nation seven years ago on that cold day in January when he said:

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real . . . . But know this America: They will be met."

They were more than just met; under his leadership they were overcome with amazing grace. And because of President Barack Obama, when he left office the United States was stronger, more prosperous, and better positioned than ever to win the future. As a presidential candidate in 2008, then Senator Obama promised the America people "change you can believe in."

In office, President Obama made good on that promise, delivering positive change that the American people can see and feel. And that is what makes his one of the most consequential presidencies in American history. I wish President Obama a happy birthday, and thank him for all he did in leading our country to a new era of greatness.

CONGRATULATING BILL HAGER  
FOR BEING NAMED 2021 U.P. VET-  
ERAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize retired Master Sergeant C. William "Bill" Hager as the 2021 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. His continued service on and off the battlefield, his dedication to fellow veterans, and his devotion to our local Michigan communities make him a well-deserving recipient of this distinguished award.

The U.P. Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of past commanders of various service organizations throughout the Upper Peninsula. It recognizes Yooper veterans who go above and beyond in their service to their local communities and fellow veterans.

A native Yooper, Bill was born and raised in Iron River and has stayed a longtime resident of the U.P. During his military career, Bill served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. National Guard, where he was decorated with numerous awards which include but are not

limited to the Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. His service to his fellow veterans has not wavered as he continues to be a life member of the DAV, American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, and AM Vets where he continues to advocate. The impact of his service on his fellow Michiganders cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Bill Hager for his decades of service to fellow Michigan veterans and for being named the 2021 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bill all the best in his future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING COACH BOB SEPULVEDA

### HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Coach Bob Sepulveda. Bob is a 1954 graduate of Goodwell High School in Goodwell, Oklahoma, where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He then attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University, earning his B.A. degree in History in 1958, while also lettering in football and track.

Bob's coaching career began in 1960 in Telluride, Colorado, where he served as head basketball and track coach and assistant baseball coach. His 1964 basketball team won the Mountain League District Class A Championship and placed second at the Western Colorado Regional Class A tournament. He also helped coach the 1964 Telluride High School baseball team that won the Class A State Championship.

Taking his coaching career on the road, Bob moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1964, where he coached both track and football for 32 years. In 1969 he was named head track coach and then head football coach in 1971.

During his 27 years as head track coach his teams won more medals for Alamogordo than any coach in its history.

19 District Championships, 5 State Championships, 1 second place finish, 5 third place finishes, 170 Invitational Track meet wins, and 102 first place medals at the State Track Meet showcase Bob's dedication to the team and the athletes.

Under Bob's coaching, several student athletes went on to become NCAA Champions, some establishing records that still stand today. Three of his athletes even went on to the Olympic trials.

If his record alone wasn't a testament to Bob's coaching abilities, he has also received numerous awards during his tenure at Alamogordo High School. He was selected as New Mexico Coach of the Year for boys track in 1982, 1991, and 1996 and received the NHSACA Region 8 Coach of the Year in 1982, 1991, and 1996. He was also named the NFSHSA Section 6 Coach of the Year in 1991 and 1996 and was also awarded, along with his wife Marilyn, the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Level IV Coaching Milestone ring in 1989 and was inducted

into the Alamogordo Tiger Hall of Fame in 1988. He also served on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Track and Field and Cross-Country Association and was the President of the Association from 1991 through 1992.

In a fitting act of recognition for his lifelong dedication and achievements, the Board of Education of the Alamogordo Public School District voted to name the Alamogordo High School Tiger Stadium Track in honor of Bob Sepulveda. A public celebration and official public christening will take place on September 3, 2021.

### IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY PHIL- LIP CAMPAS OF THE KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPART- MENT

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Deputy Phillip Campas who passed away in the line of duty on July 25, 2021.

Deputy Campas began serving the Kern County Sheriff's Department in February of 2016. He held a variety of positions within the department including patrol deputy, recruit training officer, and SWAT team member. He provided firearms training and mentoring for all armed staff. In addition, Deputy Campas served the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. His commitment to protecting the Kern County community and the citizens of the United States was unwavering and a true sign of heroism.

Deputy Campas demonstrated great courage and bravery while protecting the residents of Kern County. During his final mission, Deputy Campas lived up to his reputation of fearlessness in his rescue efforts and leaves behind a legacy of incredible dedication and selflessness. The Kern County Sheriff's Department and his entire community mourns this great loss.

Deputy Campas is survived by his wife Christina, his two daughters, and his stepson. He is remembered as a hero of Kern County, a true public servant, and a beloved member of his community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Deputy Sheriff Phillip Campas.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 249.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION HOME RULE ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Zoning Commission Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). Currently, the Commission consists of two federal officials (the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), or their designees), and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The federal officials are members even though the Commission has no authority over federal property.

Land use is a quintessential local matter in our country. Despite the D.C. Home Rule Act, which gave the District jurisdiction over its local matters, 40 percent of the members of the Commission are federal officials, who are unaccountable to the more than 700,000 residents who live in the District. The federal government would lose nothing as a result of this bill because the federal government's land-use interests in the nation's capital are protected by federal law and federal agencies.

The Commission creates the zoning maps and regulations, which must "not be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan for the national capital." The mayor is responsible for the local elements of the comprehensive plan, subject to Council approval. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), which is the central federal planning agency for the federal government in D.C. and approves federal projects here, is responsible for the federal elements of the comprehensive plan. This bill would not alter the comprehensive plan process or the authority of NCPC and the Commission.

This bill would immediately remove the AOC and the Director of the NPS from the Commission, and the Commission would, at least initially, consist solely of the three mayoral appointees. The District would have the authority to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## FAREWELL TO MAJOR BRITTANY WEIGHTMAN

## HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BROWN. Madam Speaker, today I honor a superb leader, liaison and soldier for her tireless commitment to the United States Army which include three years of service with the Army Office of the Legislative Liaison. During 2019, Major Brittany Weightman served in the Washington office of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland and went on to serve as an Army Legislative Liaison in the Senate. As Major Brittany Weightman prepares to go to the Defense Programs Support

Activity, in Elkridge, Maryland, I believe it is fitting to recognize her dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and Congress.

Major Weightman was essential to the office. She worked to solidify important legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act, proved invaluable in educating Members and staff on Army combat systems, modernization programs, and policy initiatives.

Major Weightman has deployed three times: twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. She is the recipient of the multiple Bronze Star Medals, Combat Action Badge, Meritorious Service Medals, and many other deserved awards.

I am thankful for her commitment to America and this Chamber will feel Major Weightman's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Major Weightman for her outstanding leadership and unwavering support.

## HONORING JEFFREY J. JACOBSON

## HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Master Sergeant Jeffrey Jacobson, who had an accomplished military career in the United States Air Force and was an upstanding community member in California's 5th Congressional District.

Born in Vallejo, Calif. and raised in Napa, California, Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson rooted himself in bettering our community from the start. After graduating from Napa High School in 1984, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served for 26 years, retiring in 2011 as the First Sergeant of the 48th Security Forces Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England. In addition to serving overseas in multiple countries, he pursued a degree in criminal justice at Minot State University and then a Master of Arts in adult education from Central Michigan University.

Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson's service can only be described as that of a true American patriot. In his deployments to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, he supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He was best described as being rooted in the Air Force's core values of "Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do." For his outstanding character and strong leadership, he was named the 31st Fighter Wing and the United States Air Forces in Europe First Sergeant of the Year for 2005, and the 48th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year for 2009.

After serving in the military, Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson was a devoted educator in retirement, and an incredibly loving family man. He founded Heritage High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Program in Brentwood, California, where he served as the Aerospace Science Instructor. He also served as Post Commander of Karl H. Kreh Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1123 and supported the Veterans Home in Yountville, California. He is survived by his two daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, and life partner, Charlein, for whom he was a supportive and loving family member.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Jacobson was a larger-than-life leader in the community, in the military, and in the classroom. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor his life here today.

## HONORING RAY DiPASQUALE AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ray DiPasquale at the conclusion of his role as president of Clinton Community College.

President DiPasquale has dedicated his long and distinguished career to higher education. Before coming to Clinton Community College, he previously served as president of the Community College of Rhode Island and held positions at the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, the SUNY College at Brockport, Springfield Technical Community College, and Middlesex Community College. After a nationwide search, he was selected as the new president of Massasoit Community College, where he will work following his departure from the Clinton Community College.

President DiPasquale has been with Clinton Community College since 2016, where he oversaw \$28 million of campus renovations and the creation of the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing, both of which will benefit students at the college for years to come. The North Country is proud of the work he has done for Clinton Community College throughout his over four years of service and are grateful for the strong partnerships and friendships he developed with the local community.

President DiPasquale has shown exemplary dedication to the students and faculty at Clinton Community College and has represented the North Country well. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate president DiPasquale for his contributions to the college and the community. I wish him the best of luck as he takes on his new role.

## CELEBRATING THE 59TH ANNUAL EAST COAST SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

## HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 59th anniversary of Virginia Beach's own East Coast Surfing Championships (ECSC). After successfully holding its 2020 competition with safety guidelines in place, the ECSC is now the longest-running surfing championship in the world.

The ECSC was founded in 1963 by the Virginia Beach Jaycees, a leadership training and community involvement organization dedicated to empowering young people. Every year, the ECSC invites surfers from across the United

States and around the globe to compete to become the Champion of the Atlantic Coast. The event has steadily grown over the years and now brings a host of festivities to the Virginia Beach oceanfront, such as live music, skating, and beach volleyball.

It is an honor to celebrate the long-running success of the ECSC, a staple in our Coastal Virginia community. I am grateful for the ECSC's significant contributions to our local economy and culture, and I wish the competition and all its participants the best of luck in this year's event.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
SPEERS BOROUGH MAYOR WIL-  
LIAM LEE

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HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Speers Borough Mayor William "Bill" Lee, who passed away on December 18, 2020, at the age of 75. As a lifetime resident of the Mon-Valley, Bill will always be remembered for his commitment to his community, region, and country.

After graduating from California State College in 1967, Bill's amiability led him to a career in sales and in 1980, he joined his cousins at Lee Supply Company. With their rollout of HDPE pipe in the 1970s, Lee Supply Co. had become one of the largest suppliers of pipe and pumping systems for the eastern United States. As environmental sales manager, he was fondly known as "Land Fill Bill." He retired in 2013 but remained active to mentor the next generation and represent Lee Supply Co. at trade shows.

Throughout his life, Mayor Lee's dedication to his community was clear. He served on the Mon Valley Progress Council, Charleroi Area Board of Education, the Water Authority Board of Charleroi and as chairman of the Charleroi Regional Police Department. Most remarkably, Bill served as Speers Borough mayor for more than twenty years.

Beyond public service, Bill was a pillar of his community. At St. Andrew of the Apostle, his booming voice was the first to lead parishioners in song. As the president of the Mon Valley Ancient Order of Hibernians, he sang his way through 40 years at the Pittsburgh St. Patrick Day parades, receiving many awards for singing "Molly Malone." Bill was also well known for his impromptu but enthusiastic renditions of "God Bless America." As a Meals on Wheels delivery man, he treated everyone with dignity and made their week brighter.

Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I recognize the loss of Mayor William "Bill" Lee. Bill's outstanding legacy of service will have a lasting impact and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community.

COMMEMORATING 56TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS  
ACT OF 1965

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today not just to commemorate the landmark achievement of 56 years ago but to inform our colleagues and the nation of the need to redouble and rededicate our efforts to the work that remains to be done to protect the right of all Americans to vote free from discrimination and the injustices that prevent them from exercising this most fundamental right of citizenship.

On August 6, 1965, in the rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act:

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised. In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the south were registered to vote. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results. After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the south. Because of the Voting Rights Act, today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever. Because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on this day 53 years ago, I stand before you as the first African American woman Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Madam Speaker, the Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress. Native Americans, Asians, and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited

greatly. The crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes. Section 5 protects minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas. And it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities. During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

"There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

"So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time."

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right to vote, the Lone Star State, the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan, can be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation. But to realize that future, we must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past. We must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote. Madam Speaker, I am here today to remind the nation that the right to vote, that "powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice," is facing grave threats.

The threat stems from the decision issued in June 2013 by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA's Section 5 preclearance requirements. According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that "times change." Now, the Court was right; times have changed. But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed. Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymieing the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did eliminate them entirely.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic. However, officials in some states, notably Texas and North Carolina, seemed to regard the *Shelby* decision as a green light and

rushed to implement election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime. My constituents remember very well the Voter ID law passed in Texas in 2011, which required every registered voter to present a valid government-issued photo ID on the day of polling in order to vote. The Justice Department blocked the law in March of 2012, and it was Section 5 that prohibited it from going into effect. At least it did until the Shelby decision, because on the very same day that Shelby was decided officials in Texas announced they would immediately implement the Photo ID law, and other election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

The Texas Photo ID law was challenged in federal court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the decision of U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos that Texas' strict voter identification law discriminated against Blacks and Hispanics and violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Madam Speaker, protecting voting rights and combating voter suppression schemes are two of the critical challenges facing our great democracy. Without safeguards to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the polls, more injustices are likely to occur and the voices of millions silenced. Those of us who cherish the right to vote justifiably are skeptical of Voter ID laws because we understand how these laws, like poll taxes and literacy tests, can be used to impede or negate the ability of seniors, racial and language minorities, and young people to cast their votes. Consider the demographic groups who lack a government issued ID:

- African Americans: 25 percent;
- Asian Americans: 20 percent;
- Hispanic Americans: 19 percent;
- young people, aged 18 through 24: 18 percent;
- persons with incomes less than \$35,000: 15 percent;

And there are other ways abridging or suppressing the right to vote, including:

- Curtailing or eliminating early voting;
- ending same-day registration;
- not counting provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct on Election Day will not count;
- eliminating adolescent pre-registration;
- shortening poll hours.

Lessening the standards governing voter challenges thus allowing self-proclaimed "ballot security vigilantes" like the King Street Patriots to cause trouble at the polls.

Madam Speaker, on this day, the 56th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965, I call upon the leadership of Congress in both chambers to bring to a vote legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans.

Specifically, I call for the passage of H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court's Shelby decision. This legislation provides even greater federal oversight of jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices. Madam Speaker, before concluding there is one other point I would like to stress.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson said:

"Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

"But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment."

In other words, political power, and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides, comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right. And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to both register and vote in every election, state and local as well as federal. Because if we can register and vote, but fail to do so, we are guilty of voluntary voter suppression, the most effective method of disenfranchisement ever devised. And in recent years, Americans have not been doing a very good job of exercising our civic responsibility to register, vote, and make their voices heard.

Madam Speaker, for millions of Americans, the right to vote protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things. So on this 56th anniversary of that landmark law, let us rededicate ourselves to honoring those who won for us this precious right by remaining vigilant and fighting against both the efforts of others to abridge or suppress the right to vote and our own apathy in exercising this sacred right.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (RETIRED) JOSEPH FRENCHMAN KYLES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, soldier, veteran, and dedicated civil servant, SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles, who most recently retired from an impressive career with the United States Postal Service spanning almost three decades. He was honored at a retirement event on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Civic Center.

Joseph Frenchman Kyles was born in Sampson, Alabama on July 26, 1950, to the union of Nathaniel and Corine Kyles as the oldest of seven children. He is the loving husband of Minister Nila Kyles, the father of four children, and the grandfather of five grandchildren.

In 1972, Joseph Kyles answered the call to serve his nation and joined the United States Army. During his distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Army, he became a non-commissioned officer retiring at the rank of Sergeant First Class. During his Army career, he served at Fort Benning in the Harmony Church area (specializing in Engineering, Weapon Night Firing, Leadership Training, and Tactical Training Maneuvers) and completed various overseas duties and assignments before retiring in 1992. To further hone his skills, he attended Columbus Technical College to obtain a degree in Engineering, Leadership, and Tactics Training.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, SFC (Ret.) Kyles built quite an impressive public service career with the United States Postal Service (USPS), beginning in 1992, when he started as a mail clerk. Over the span of 29 years, he served in several other capacities with USPS including mail handler, mail carrier, and mail truck driver.

Also, following his military service, he continued to serve his community and make an impact in the lives of others. His contributions include serving and financially supporting youth through Little League Football and Softball; Lonnie Jackson Academy Tutorial program; South Columbus Coalition; South Columbus Exchange Club; Youth of the Year program; and The House Of Refuge Ministry with his wife and son, Darian Hall, who is the pastor. He has also served as mentor and financial supporter for his fellow Veterans by assisting and transporting veterans to and from appointments, helping them acquire benefits and receive medical supplies for life endurance following their military service.

Douglas Adams once said that "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles has demonstrated through his career and life, outstanding achievement, service, and public distinction. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because of him. In honor of his commendable accomplishments and years of service, B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, signed a proclamation declaring August 7, 2021 as "Joseph Frenchman Kyles Day".

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District in honoring and commending SFC (Ret.) Joseph Frenchman Kyles for his outstanding service to his nation, community, and humankind as well as upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Postal Service. We extend our best wishes to him as he begins a new chapter in his life.

#### HONORING THE BIG RED BARREL PROJECT

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenth anniversary of the Big Red Barrel Project, founded in Livingston County.

On Good Friday in 2011, two local residents, Joe Carney and Terry Murray, struck up a conversation with then-Under Sheriff Mike Murphy. The three men were attending a biannual DEA drug takeback event and agreed that safe disposal of prescription drugs should happen every day—not just every two years.

What began with that conversation turned into the original Big Red Barrel, a metal dropbox at the Michigan State Police Post in Brighton where folks could safely dispose of their unused medications. Today, there are more than 75 Big Red Barrels all over the state.

In addition to the permanent locations, sponsors have teamed up with the drain commissioner to host several events at local recycling centers where residents can drop off needles in addition to prescription pills.

In its first decade, the Big Red Barrel project has safely disposed of over 20 tons of unused medications. It's lifesaving work, because as that number grows, it means more pills out of the wrong hands and out of municipal water systems.

Michiganders don't admire problems from afar—when they see something that needs fixing, they go out and do it. For ten years, the Big Red Barrel Project has been a perfect example of folks coming together for the common good. I'm proud to recognize it, and I wish this community project the best for the next 10 years to come.

IN HONOR OF JAMES STEWART  
MCFARLAND

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, James Stewart "Jim" McFarland. Mr. McFarland lives in North Middletown, Kentucky. He celebrates his 90th birthday on August 12th.

Mr. McFarland served our nation in the United States Army in the 1950's during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he returned to Bourbon County and worked in electronics repair.

In 1959, Mr. McFarland began serving the people of North Middletown as a volunteer firefighter. He became chief of the North Middletown Volunteer Fire Department in 1971. As Chief, he was instrumental in acquiring funds for and overseeing the construction of the fire station that is still in use today in North Middletown. He also was a key resource in the formation of the Little Rock Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. McFarland conducted numerous fire training classes both in Bourbon County and throughout Central Kentucky. Currently, Mr. McFarland serves as assistant fire chief for the North Middletown community.

In addition to his 62 years of service with the Fire Department, Mr. McFarland has participated in seven mission trips to Honduras where he used his carpentry skills on numerous construction projects. He also serves North Middletown Christian Church as an elder, a deacon, and property committee chair.

For all the ways that Mr. McFarland has served our nation and his community, he is to be commended and appreciated. It is my honor to recognize James Stewart McFarland on the occasion of his 90th birthday before the United States Congress.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT OF  
2021

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Ocean Shipping Reform Act of

2021," with Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON (R-SD). Our bipartisan legislation would better support American exporters by ensuring reciprocal trade to help reduce the United States' longstanding trade imbalance export-driven countries like mainland China.

This would be the first major overhaul of federal regulations for the global ocean shipping industry time since Congress passed the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-258). There has since been considerable consolidation amongst the "foreign-based ocean carriers, coinciding with the continued decline of the U.S.-flagged international fleet. In late 2001, the People's Republic of China was granted permanent normal trade relations with the United States, so-called "most-favored nation" status, following the country's admission to the World Trade Organization.

Foreign businesses' access to the American market and our consumers is a privilege, not a right. California's agricultural exporters and other businesses are willing to pay to ensure that their products reach emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific. In turn, companies looking to offload foreign-made products at West Coast ports must provide opportunities for American exports. Congress must ensure reciprocity in trade with other countries to reduce the United States' trade imbalance, particularly with cheap imports from Asia. Even during a global pandemic, trade must be mutually beneficial, and that is exactly what our bipartisan bill would ensure.

On March 9, 2021, Congressman JOHNSON and I joined over 100 Members of Congress in a bipartisan letter urging the Federal Maritime Commission to crack down on anti-competitive, unfair, and likely illegal business practices by some ocean carriers during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Dozens of agricultural exporters contacted my office reporting that ocean carriers simply refused to accept cargo bookings for U.S. exports, instead choosing to send cannisters empty back to the Asia-Pacific, as quickly as possible. Outright refusing to take U.S. exports at seemingly any price is simply not an acceptable business practice by the ocean carriers.

On June 15, 2021, Congressman JOHNSON and I announced our intention to pursue this legislation, at the Maritime Subcommittee's hearing on the "Impacts of Shipping Container Shortages, Delays, and Increased Demand on the North American Supply Chain."

On July 20, 2021, the Federal Maritime Commission established a new audit program to assess ocean carriers' compliance with federal regulations on detention and demurrage and increase the agency's monitoring of the marketplace for ocean cargo services. This action underscores the need for our bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members to co-sponsor the "Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021." As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where I serve with Congressman JOHNSON, and the former ranking member of the Maritime Subcommittee from the 113th to the 115th Congresses, I plan to make this legislation a major priority. Specifically, I hope to include our bipartisan legislation in the maritime title of the next Coast Guard Authorization Act for fiscal years 2022 to 2023.

CELEBRATING MEADVIEW VFW  
AUXILIARY 11014's 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the Meadview VFW Auxiliary a wonderful 30th anniversary. The Meadview Auxiliary embodies the very best our country has to offer. Their work with Mt. Tipton Elementary school—particularly Constitution Day in September—teaches our future leaders to respect and engage with our great republic. We are in debt to your service.

Their Resource and Stand-down fairs assisted countless veterans and ensured our nation's finest have their voices heard in Congress. Each and every one of the Auxiliary's members and contributors are patriots; their collation of 100,000 poppies when disabled veterans were unable to meet proved as much.

The United States is in short supply of men and women such as yourselves. The Meadview community and the people of Arizona are blessed to have great Americans setting an example for generations to come. I am proud to be a friend of the Meadview VFW Auxiliary, and I look forward to continue fighting for Veterans' issues here in Washington.

SALINE COUNTY CAREER  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Saline County Career Technical Education Center.

I commend Saline County for uniting to provide overwhelming support for this new educational center.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Skilled Workforce Caucus, I am excited to see Saline County invest in skilled workforce education.

This educational center will teach students skills at a young age, so they may receive a head start in the technical field of their choosing. This will allow these students to be career ready to enter the workforce after graduation.

The current workforce shortage proves that there is no better time to invest in skilled workforce education and America's next generation.

Thanks to many efforts in Arkansas, including the new Saline County Career Technical Education Center, the future looks even brighter. My home state of Arkansas will continue to have bright, driven, hard-working, exceptionally trained, and career ready students.

The Saline County Career Technical Education Center will serve as a new benchmark for Arkansas. I am humbled to witness the start of its inspiring future.



HONORING PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Paul Smith's College.

Paul Smith's College received its first class in 1946 on the grounds of the former Paul Smith's Hotel, the Adirondacks' first wilderness resort. Since then, Paul Smith's College has graduated thousands of students from around the nation. Over the past 75 years, the college has expanded to include unique degree programs ranging from the natural sciences, to forestry, to culinary arts. Paul Smith's degree programs offer students a wide variety of opportunities to prepare for their future career. The faculty and staff are dedicated to the success of their students, with 90 percent finding employment or enrolling in graduate school within 6 months of graduating. Of the approximately 750 students, 46 percent the first in their family to go to college. These numbers speak to the impact that the college has had in the lives of students and the community.

Paul Smith's College has been a vital resource to the North Country and continues to serve the region well as it has the past 75 years. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to congratulate the students, faculty, staff, and leadership team at Paul Smith's College on reaching this milestone. I look forward to their continued success.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILLIP JAMES DEVRIES II FOR HIS SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Phillip

James DeVries II for his three decades of service in the United States Army. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion, LTC DeVries has helped to strengthen our foreign diplomatic relations and ensure the safety and security of his fellow Americans.

LTC DeVries started his military career 32 years ago at West Point Military Academy, where he was awarded the rank of second lieutenant field artillery officer. Given his comprehensive military and strategic background, he also became a strategic plans and policies officer helping to modernize the U.S. military and better assist his fellow soldiers in the field. While in the Army, he served in numerous countries across the world and deployed four times to Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In addition, DeVries recognized the importance of international diplomacy and relations during his service, which is why he constantly worked to strengthen alliances in the surrounding communities. In pursuit of this, he attended the NATO Defense College in Rome and was involved in many projects across 22 different countries with hundreds of international officers. Phillip's longtime devotion to our country is commendable, and the impact of his work on his fellow servicemembers and the people of the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Phillip James DeVries II for his decades of service to the United States Army and his leadership that will inspire future generations. On behalf of my constituents, I wish LTC DeVries all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE WORK OF RAYNA LEHMAN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2021*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of Rayna Lehman, a champion of women and labor and a true patriot, who is retiring after serving with great distinction and effectiveness for 39 years as the community services director of the San Mateo County Labor Council. She will receive

the well-deserved honor of the Cope Unity Award at the 41st Annual Cope Banquet to be held at the Hyatt Regency at San Francisco International Airport on August 13, 2021.

Rayna was born in the Bronx, New York, to a working-class family. She was educated in public schools and was a day camp counselor, a salesperson, and a TSP telephone operator, before she came to California in 1970.

The list of glass ceilings Rayna has broken began with the San Mateo County Union Community Alliance, and the list of the positions she has held that never had been held by a woman before is a long one. The honors she has earned include the San Mateo Labor Council Unity Award; PALCARE Outstanding Service Award; McCowan Takalo Anti-Hunger Advocacy Award; APALA Community Services Leadership Award; the UC Berkeley Labor Center Helping Hands Award; Menlo Park Hometown Hero; Senate District 13 2021 Woman of the Year; the Hispanic Chamber Community Leader Award; and many more.

She participated in the creation of PALCARE, was appointed to the San Mateo County Childcare Partnership Council, and represented Labor on the inaugural First Five Community Steering Committee. She created Health@Work and helped create the Community Health Reform Advisory Committee to introduce the Affordable Care Act to San Mateo County.

As the community services director of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, Rayna created the Union Hardship Fund, trained union counselors to assist local union members, and coordinated a partnership with Second Harvest Silicon Valley Food Bank to provide twice monthly food distributions that help more than 800 families. She's a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 29 and served as president of Painters Local 15 for nine years.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in thanking Rayna Lehman for her extraordinary work and in congratulating her on being honored for her exceptional leadership as San Mateo County Central Labor Council's community services director. The blessings of her work have touched thousands of families, and we are a better, stronger county and country because of her.